

Minute of Harris Academy Parent Voice Meeting



Date 6th March, 2024, 7pm

Attendance:

B. Millar (HT), M. Mcleod (Chair), E. Hallyburton (Clerk), V. Low, B. Adeola, L. Chacko (DHT), R. Rennie, C. Webster, L. Hay, S. Mitchell, K. Jones. S. Brady, Cllr Macpherson

Apologies:

Cllr Campbell, Cllr El-Nakla, K. MacDonald, M. Stewart, Cllr Crichton, L. Couplar, K. Gillespie, C. Campbell, K. Zwart, S. Grant

		Action by
1	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>For the foreseeable future, Harris Parent Council meetings will be less formal so will not be proposed or seconded.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Update</p> <p>M. Mcleod welcomed everyone to the meeting including DHT, Leona Chacko who has finished her secondment with Scottish Government.</p> <p><u>Harris Academy Building Update</u> M. Mcleod asked for an update on the outstanding building issues from past storms. B. Millar reported frustration at the lack of progress being made here. There are still considerable outstanding issues (no Band room, Home Economic lights on 24 hours a day.) Due to water damage, the school has lost 2 washing machines/tumble dryers, coffee grinder and 4 PCs.) The school also has ventilation issues, and the school carpark constantly floods. Timescales for repairs are now required. The school is actively seeking solutions, but staff and pupils are becoming increasingly fed up with this situation.</p> <p><u>School Captains' Interviews</u> M. Mcleod will be part of the interview panel for Harris' 2024/25 School Captains.</p>	

3	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Cuts to Buses Update</u></p> <p>There have been many meetings in local communities regarding cuts to some services. This is ongoing.</p>		
4	<p>HT and SMT Update</p> <p>B. Millar welcomed DHT, L. Chacko back to the school, having finished her secondment with Scottish Government.</p> <p><u>Planet Youth</u></p> <p>L. Chacko is the lead on this prevention model. This was developed from the Icelandic Prevention Model – a theory-based approach with demonstrated effectiveness in reducing substance use in Iceland for over 20 years. The Planet Youth Guidance Program is designed to strengthen protective factors, mitigate risk factors, and build healthy community environments for positive youth development by focusing on key domains in the local school-community: Family, peer group, leisure (out-of-school) time, and school.</p> <p>The Planet Youth Guidance Program is a population-wide primary prevention process designed to have a long-term impact in communities on reducing youth substance use through creating a healthy built environment. Planet Youth treats society as ‘the patient,’ and believes that building a community environment that delays the onset of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs for as long as possible is an effective approach to reducing the long-term health problems related to youth substance use.</p> <p>Pupils and staff will be going along to the next Lochee Community Safety Group meeting.</p> <p><u>Speakeasy</u></p> <p>L. Chacko also spoke about Speakeasy and asked if this would be of use to the Harris Community? This is a free course run by NHS Tayside which helps parents and carers to communicate with their children about growing up, sexual health and relationships. The course is for P6 parents upwards. Research has shown that sex and relationships education can raise the age young people first try out sexual activity, cut the rate of teenage pregnancies and abortion, and lower the rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Most young people want to hear the facts from their parents or carers and be able to talk with them about body changes, feelings and boyfriends/girlfriends, yet many parents and carers feel embarrassed or are not sure what to say. L. Chacko to contact NHS Tayside to look at taster events at future Family Learning Event in the school.</p>		

	<p><u>Home Learning Policy</u> The school is no longer using Satchel One, instead Teams is being used as it is easy to access. Surveys will be coming out to parents to find out what they're looking for. There is a need to get it right for all (staff, pupils, parents.)</p> <p><u>Easter School/Saturday School/ Masterclasses</u> These will be going ahead again this year. Easter school will run from Wednesday to Wednesday in the Easter holidays.</p> <p><u>Anti-Bullying Survey</u> This will be coming out to all parents and carers. It will also be asking for parent/carer volunteers to join a short-life working group.</p> <p><u>Staffing – Ongoing</u> A number of interviews are taking place over the next week to fill outstanding vacancies.</p> <p>Jessica Borwell Clarke has been appointed Acting Head of Technical. Laura West – New Business Manager (Monday – Thursday) and Gill Carrol will continue as Business Manager of Fridays.</p> <p><u>Staffing Cuts</u> This does happen year on year, with this year being particularly challenging especially as additional support for pupils is rising. B. Millar assured the group, alternative means of support will be found.</p> <p><u>Thanks</u> B. Millar thanked School Captains, R. Rennie and S. Brady for all their hard work throughout the year and wished them well for the future.</p>		
5	<p>School Captains' Update Sportathon – They are raising money for the little sister of another S6 pupil. Approximately 60 young people have signed up to take part.</p> <p>New School Captain Interviews – R. Rennie and S. Brady will be involved in the interview process for 2024/25 School Captains.</p> <p>M. Mcleod wished R. Rennie and S. Brady all the best as this was their last meeting.</p>		
6	<p>Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 21st May, 7pm, Harris Academy</p>		